

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 11, 23, 35 and 39-41 have been amended, claims 6, 8, 9, 38, 42 and 43 have been canceled, and claims 46-51 have been added by this Amendment and Response. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 1-5, 7, 10-37, 39-41 and 44-51 are pending in this application.

Claims 35 and 41 have been amended to address the indefiniteness issues that were raised in the Office action mailed March 7, 2005.

In the Office Action, claims 1-30 and 32-45 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,401,079 (Kahn) and claim 31 was rejected as being obvious over Kahn in view of U.S. Patent 6,411,938 (Gates).

This application currently has two independent claims, claims 1 and 23.

Claim 1, which is directed to a method for providing employment management services to a network user, recites the steps of providing a user interface to the user to access the employment management services, wherein the user interface comprises controls, *bundling a plurality of controls, wherein a relationship exists between the plurality of controls and a triggering event*, presenting the bundled plurality of controls to the user via the user interface to access at least one business application, receiving information from the user via the controls, and *processing the received information to provide an employment service which relates to the triggering event*.

Claim 23, which is directed to a system for providing employment management services, similarly recites a portal server hosting at least a portion of an employment management services accessible to a user via a client system, at least one business application that relates to an employment service which is offered to the user, a user interface comprising controls through which the user can submit information, *an event-based navigation module which bundles a plurality of controls to be presented to the user via the user interface based upon a relationship that exists between the plurality of controls and a triggering event*, the employment management services being available via a network to assist at least one services manager in *managing employment services offered to the user that relates to the triggering event*.

A “triggering event,” for example, can be a work-related event, such as the promotion of an employee, or a life-related event, such as the birth of a child. See e.g., pages 13-15 of the present application.

At a minimum, Kahn and Gates do not teach, disclose or suggest, either individually or in combination, methods or systems that provides a bundle of controls based upon a relationship that exists between the controls and a triggering event to provide an employment service that relates to the triggering event, as is recited by the independent claims of the present application. The tabs/links of Kahn, for example, provide control fields for a user to provide information (e.g., “address,” “offices,” “tax information”), but these controls do not share a relationship with a triggering event nor are they bundled based upon their relationship with a triggering event. See Col. 28, lines 8-12 and Figures 6, 6a, 26, 26a and 40-41.

Since the cited references fail to teach, disclose or suggest, either individually or in combination, these limitations of the independent claims, independent claims 1 and 23 and the claims that depend therefrom (claims 2-5, 7, 10-22, 24-37, 39-41 and 44-51), are therefore allowable over the cited prior art references.

Conclusion

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-37, 39-41 and 44-51 are pending in the present application.

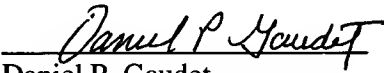
A two-month extension of time for responding to the Office Action mailed March 7, 2005 accompanies this Amendment and Response. Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any over-payments to Deposit Account No. 08-0219 that may be due in connection with the filing of this Response.

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner has any questions in regard to this Amendment and Response, or any other issue in this case, please call the below signed representative at (617) 526-6000.

Respectfully submitted,

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